UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1924
28 June 1995

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Improvised rocket-bombs strike Sarajevo after Bosnian Government forces launch fresh offensive; UNPF Commander says he has no evidence to confirm troops from Federal Republic of Yugoslavia are present in Croatia.

* Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is meeting commitment to close border with Serb-controlled areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Co-Chairmen of International Conference report.

* Brigadier-General Frank van Kappen succeeds General Maurice Baril as Secretary-General's Military Adviser.

* World Economic and Social Survey 1995 finds global economy is growing at sustainable 3 per cent per year, with no threat of high inflation.

* Economic and Social Council begins 1995 substantive session in Geneva by adopting agenda and programme of work.

* Ad Hoc Committee on Indian Ocean begins five-day session at Headquarters; Australia says French decision to resume nuclear testing in South Pacific is deeply offensive.

* * *

Bosnian Government forces this morning went on the offensive with company-size infantry attacks in the western suburbs of Sarajevo, according to a United Nations spokesman. A short while later, improvised rocket-bombs hit the city's television building and an apartment block 500 metres away. One person was killed and 33 were injured at the television building, while there were unconfirmed reports that four people had been killed at the apartment block.

The spokesman described the rocket-bombs as "home-made devices, highly

(more)

For information media—not an official record

explosive in nature and extremely inaccurate as weapons." He noted that no humanitarian convoys had reached Sarajevo since last week as neither of the Bosnian parties would give security guarantees for deliveries to areas controlled by the other. "As long as this stand-off persists, there'll be no deliveries to either side," he added.

Meanwhile, the Commander of the United Nations Peace Forces (UNPF), General Bernard Janvier, yesterday informed the Croatian Government that he had received no information confirming the presence of troops from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) in Sector South. He said in a letter to the Government that he shared its concern about the possibility of external military involvement in the conflict in Croatia. He added that he would conduct a further investigation of the matter.

General Janvier went on to say that the withdrawal of Croatian forces from the Mount Dinara area would be a significant step towards reducing tensions in the Sector. He proposed that the United Nations establish three observation posts in the area, and asked the Croatian Government to use its influence with the Bosnian Croat forces to facilitate that initiative.

* * *

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) is continuing to meet its commitment to close the border between it and Serb-controlled areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina, according to the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia. In a report issued today, they also certified that there had been no transshipments across the border between the two countries during the past 30 days. The report was transmitted by the Secretary-General to the Security Council in a letter dated 25 June.

The Co-Chairmen said the financial situation of the International Conference's Mission to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) had improved. As a result, they had authorized an increase in Mission personnel to 200. As of 22 June, 185 international personnel were covering 19 border crossings 24 hours a day.

* * *

Brigadier-General Frank van Kappen of the Netherlands has been named as the Secretary-General's new Military Adviser, according to a United Nations spokesman. He succeeds General Maurice Baril of Canada, who served in the position for the last three years.

Brigadier-General van Kappen has commanded the Netherlands Forces in the Caribbean since July 1992. He has also served as Director of the Royal Netherlands Navy's Personnel Planning Department, and worked with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in the United Kingdom. He received his commission in 1964.

(more)

The global economy is growing at a sustainable rate of 3 per cent a year, according to the United Nations World Economic and Social Survey 1995. The Survey said that the economy was stronger than it had been for years, and that growth was not so rapid as to threaten high inflation. Nevertheless, some countries were continuing to stagnate, and their prospects depended on the policies they implemented themselves.

The Survey warned that the macroeconomic measures needed to stimulate the global economy should growth slacken would be constrained by the need to reassure the financial markets. Persistently high unemployment was another problem of great importance, and should be addressed through human capital development, regulatory reform and investment in infrastructure.

The economies in transition would enjoy overall economic growth in 1996, but might have already achieved positive growth, the Survey noted. However, Africa's economic performance continued to be a disappointment, with population growth outstripping gross domestic product (GDP) growth in the sub-Saharan region. Severe poverty also existed in parts of Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean.

* * *

The Economic and Social Council has begun its 1995 substantive session in Geneva by adopting its agenda and programme of work. The Council postponed until tomorrow a decision on granting accreditation to 759 non-governmental organizations to the Fourth World Conference on Women. The Conference will be held in Beijing from 4 to 15 September.

In his opening statement, President Ahmad Kamal (Pakistan) said that the concept of international development cooperation was being re-examined and that the Council was coming under particularly close scrutiny. The best way to silence the critics was to demonstrate by the quality of decision-making that development efforts were viable and necessary, and that the Council was the best forum to manage the task.

* * *

The Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean yesterday began a five-day session at Headquarters. It is working for general disarmament in the region, and for the convening of an international conference for that purpose, with the participation of the States of the region and the Powers that have an interest in it.

The representative of Australia told the Ad Hoc Committee that France's decision to resume nuclear testing in the South Pacific was deeply offensive. It made a mockery of the recent agreement on the extension of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and gave comfort to those not committed to the Treaty, he said.

* *** *